

INCREDIBLE FAITH

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Have faith, even when you are opposed by others.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will brainstorm ways to respond to people who object to their beliefs.

KEY PASSAGE:

Nehemiah 4:1-18, Nehemiah Faces Opposition

MEMORY VERSE:

"Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you." Psalm 84:12 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

God called Nehemiah to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, and Nehemiah obeyed even when faced with great opposition. Kids will learn that we must keep doing God's work, even when people make fun of us.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to stay strong when other people oppose us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

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MEMORY VERSE

“Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.” Psalm 84:12 (NIV)

“Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you.” Psalm 84:12 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Split the main group in two. See which group can recite the memory verse from memory the loudest.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids practice saying their memory verse, and then see who can say it backwards.

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SKIT

HERO AUDITIONS: BUILDER MAN

ITEMS NEEDED:

A clipboard

A super hero costume

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

CHARACTERS:

Martin - A casting director

Builder Man

Martin enters.

MARTIN: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you, one and all for your patience. I know a lot of you have been waiting a very long time, but we're almost to the end, and I promise, every one of you will get your chance to audition for the new super hero team. Now, number 781 please. Number 781.

Builder Man enters.

BUILDER: Hello, good citizen. Did I hear you call my number?

MARTIN: That depends. Are you 781?

BUILDER: That is the number you gave me, but my friends call me... Builder Man!

MARTIN: Builder Man? Really? That's the best you could do?

BUILDER: What's wrong with Builder Man?

MARTIN: I dunno, just sounds like something a preschooler could come up with. Why not something dynamic like the Power Drill, or Captain Hammer?

BUILDER: Because I like Builder Man. It's what I do. I build things. And I don't let the critics tear me down.

SKIT

MARTIN: I'm sorry, I didn't mean to criticize.

BUILDER: No offense taken, citizen. When you are doing good work, you can't let anyone stand in your way. Otherwise, you'll never get anything done.

MARTIN: So you build things?

BUILDER: I have built many things.

MARTIN: Like what?

BUILDER: Well, when the city of Jerusalem needed a new wall, I built the new wall to protect its citizens.

MARTIN: That sounds like hard work.

BUILDER: It was very hard work. The wall was in ruins, and we had to clear the rubble before we could build the new one. But that wasn't half the trouble.

MARTIN: Oh no?

BUILDER: We had many enemies that did not want that wall rebuilt! They plotted to stop us, to attack us and destroy our hard work. It got to the point where we had half our men working and half the men standing guard, armed and ready to fight.

MARTIN: It didn't come to a fight, did it?

BUILDER: No, thank goodness. The Lord was with us, and he helped us to stand strong. We finished our work, and we made the city safe again.

MARTIN: Builder Man, I'm sorry for criticizing your name. It's clear to me that your name is a good one, and your work is a good work.

BUILDER: I appreciate that, citizen. Just know that if you need a hero who will stand strong in the face of the opposition, I am that hero.

MARTIN: I wish I had your courage and resolve, Builder Man.

BUILDER: Have faith in the Lord, and you can!

INCREDIBLE FAITH

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A section of garden fencing/chicken wire

How many of you guys have a vegetable garden? Do any of you grow veggies in your backyard? If you do, how many of you have put up some of this material? This small fence is designed to keep animals from getting into the garden. It's designed to protect the tomatoes and cucumbers and peppers and squash from rabbits and squirrels and other critters.

The animals don't like the fencing, do they? You're keeping them from getting to some free food! But a wise gardener knows that sometimes you need to stand up and show those critters who is boss!

Sometimes as people of faith, we can face opposition. We meet people who don't believe like we do, and they aren't always friendly about it. They call us names. They tell us to stop reading the Bible, stop praying, and stop talking about Jesus. When we face opposition, we need to let our faith give us courage. We need to stand up to bullies who would silence us. We need to speak in love, but we need to speak with confidence.

Every man and woman who has ever walked a life of faith has run into opposition. When someone opposes you, pray for them, and pray for the courage to stand strong. Be a faithful witness for Jesus, and don't let your opponents make you back down.

INCREDIBLE FAITH

LARGE GROUP GAME

CUP STACKER

ITEMS NEEDED:

Thirty plastic cups

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game. The two players will race to see who can build a pyramid out of 15 cups the quickest. The pyramid must have 5 cups on the bottom row, then 4, then 3, then 2, then 1. The first to finish their pyramid wins.

VARIATION:

This can also be a beat the clock challenge. One player must build a pyramid and then restack the cups into one stack within 60 seconds.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Like Nehemiah the builder, we need to stand strong against people who oppose our faith.

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LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Have faith, even when you are opposed by others.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will brainstorm ways to respond to people who object to their beliefs.

KEY PASSAGE:

Nehemiah 4:1-18, Nehemiah Faces Opposition

INTRO:

Does the name J. Jonah Jameson mean anything to any of you? Who can tell me who J. Jonah Jameson is? I'll give you a clue: he's a comic book character. He doesn't have super powers. And he's from the Marvel Universe.

J. Jonah Jameson is publisher of the Daily Bugle newspaper that employs a young photographer named Peter Parker. The Daily Bugle is also the newspaper that covers all the stories about a super hero named Spider-Man. You would think that after all Spidey had done for the city of New York, that the Bugle would have nothing but nice things to say about him. But that's not quite true.

You see, J. Jonah Jameson is not a fan of Spider-Man. As a matter of fact, he sees Spider-Man as a menace, a threat to society, a bug that needs to be squashed. Jameson is always bad-mouthing Spider-Man. He can take any story, any photo showing Spider-Man doing something good and turn it into something mean. Jameson will do anything to try and convince people that Spider-Man needs to be stopped, put behind bars, and exposed. He really just doesn't like Spider-Man!

I'd love to tell you all that as Christians, we'll never meet a person like J. Jonah Jameson, but that's far from the truth. This world is full with people who think Christians are a bunch of fakes. They think we are praying to the ceiling, not to a real God. They think we are silly to follow the Ten Commandments and a book thousands of years old. They laugh, they ridicule, they tell us to stop being silly and stop following Jesus.

It's times like these we need strength and courage, like today's Bible hero. We call him Builder Man because he is the one who convinced the Israelites to rebuild their city wall after it was destroyed.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

He is a man with a plan, a man of faith, and a man who wouldn't back down!

READ NEHEMIAH 4:1-18

MAIN POINT:

If you know your Old Testament history, you know that the city of Jerusalem was once the capital of the nation of Judah. You also know that Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem were defeated in battle by Babylon. God allowed his people to be defeated and taken captive because of their sin and rebellion against him.

God promised his people that when the time was right, he would restore them and their land. Nehemiah was the man he chose to help him rebuild Jerusalem. He left a comfortable job as a servant of a foreign king to return to a war zone and lead his people in reconstructing their protective wall.

Nehemiah had to do more than rebuild a wall. He had to protect that wall. He had to guard the wall from the enemies of Israel who did not want that wall rebuilt. Nehemiah was not afraid of these bullies. He kept his men working hard, and he kept guards on duty at all times.

Nehemiah shows us that having faith means standing strong in the face of opposition. We don't back down. We stand firm. We stand up for what's right no matter what!

DRIVE IT HOME:

Many people throughout history have tried to silence Christians and the gospel. Dictators and oppressive governments have passed laws making it illegal to be a Christian or to talk about Jesus. They throw people in jail for organizing churches or handing out Bibles. They burn down churches and hurt people who try to share their faith with others.

Do you want to know how successful these people have been? Not at all! In fact history shows us the harder people try to stop the spread of Christ, the faster it spreads. In the nation of China, a nation that does terrible things to Christians, there are MILLIONS of Christians who love Jesus and worship the same God we do! They're there because of people who were not afraid of China's anti-Christian laws and were willing to still tell people about Jesus. They believe because they know their faith is real.

We are fortunate to still live in a country where we have religious freedom, but more and more, there are bullies and people out there trying to silence us. They don't want us to pray out in public. They don't want us to read the Bible. They don't want us to talk about Jesus.

God wants us to stand strong when people oppose us.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

He wants us to speak softly out of love, but to be bold. God will give us the courage to stand our ground. He will give us the words to say to those who hate us. He will make us a light for others to follow, just like the millions of Christians now living in China.

Builder Man was a man of great faith, a man who refused to back down from a challenge. Ask God to give you that kind of courage. Ask him to help you stand up to the opposition. Let God use you to be a witness and to show others that our way is the only way!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to stay strong when other people oppose us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

INCREDIBLE FAITH

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Who are some of your favorite non-super hero comic book characters?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 84:12

Have the kids practice saying their memory verse, and then see who can say it backwards.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Divide the group in two and have them stand opposite each other, forming two walls. Give one group a ball or pillow, and have them try to toss it through or around the other wall. Then let the other wall/group try to do the same.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Nehemiah 4:1-18

Who was Builder Man?

What was Nehemiah trying to help his people do?

Who was opposed to Nehemiah rebuilding the wall?

What did Nehemiah do to make sure the wall was built?

How should we respond when people oppose our faith?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to respond to those who oppose us with kindness and love.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

INCREDIBLE FAITH

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Who are some of your favorite non-super hero comic book characters?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 84:12

Have the kids practice saying their memory verse, and then see who can say it backwards.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Divide the group in two and have them stand opposite each other, forming two walls. Give one group a ball or pillow, and have them try to toss it through or around the other wall. Then let the other wall/group try to do the same.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Nehemiah 4:1-18

Why was Nehemiah trying to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem?

Why were there people opposed to the building of the wall?

What did Nehemiah do to make sure the wall was built?

What kind of opposition have you seen to what you believe?

How should we respond when people oppose our faith?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to respond to those who oppose us with kindness and love.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

INCREDIBLE FAITH

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

Nehemiah wanted to destroy the walls of Jerusalem.

FALSE

There were men who opposed Nehemiah and his efforts to rebuild the wall.

TRUE

Nehemiah never backed down from the people who opposed him.

TRUE

We will probably never meet anyone who disagrees with our faith.

FALSE

God wants us to be faithful and bold when we face opposition to our faith.

TRUE



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Incredible Faith 11

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BUILDER MAN



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

God called Nehemiah to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, and Nehemiah obeyed even when faced with great opposition. Kids will learn that we must keep doing God's work, even when people make fun of us. Nehemiah 4:1-18, Nehemiah Faces Opposition



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Talk to your kids about some of the challenges facing Christians and churches today. What are some of the ways we are challenged about our faith? How do people usually respond, and how should we respond to that opposition?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who is Builder Man?
- What kind of opposition did Builder Man face in building the wall?
- What should we do when people oppose our faith?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

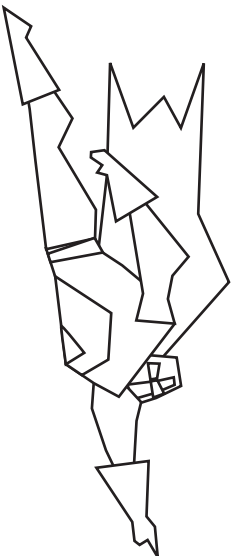
"Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you." Psalm 84:12 (NIRV)



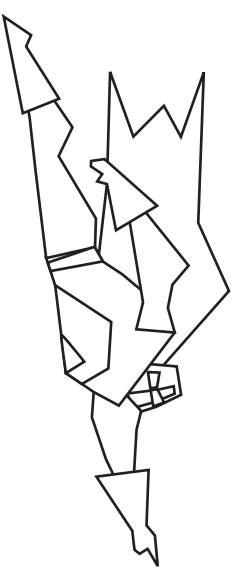
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

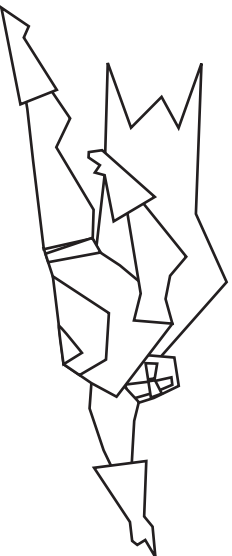
Christians in America are facing more and more opposition to our faith, but we can take comfort knowing that when Christians face opposition, the church only grows faster. Pray that our kids will have a spirit of boldness and be willing to stand up to the opposition, speaking the truth in love.



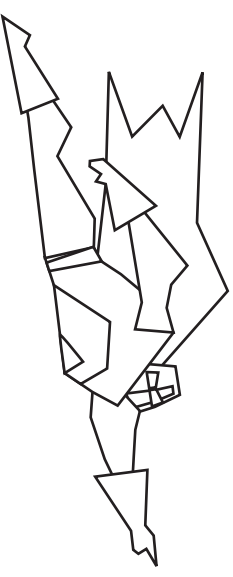
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"Lord who rules over all, blessed is the person who trusts in you."
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Using craft items like construction paper, cardboard, empty toilet paper rolls, etc, have the kids make a pair of binoculars to remind them of the watchmen who guarded the wall in today's story. Remind the kids that they are to stand firm when opposed and be faithful witnesses for God.